

GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 14, 2003

In brief

TRICARE online

TRICARE Management Activity now has a Web site that links Department of Defense beneficiaries, managers and health-care providers with an array of interactive features.

At www.tricareonline.com/ beneficiaries have access to their personal health journal; a medical dictionary; diagnostic and surgical procedures. It also provides a symptom checker; a prescription checker; the latest scientific information and evidence on natural remedies and their uses. Other information available is the positive and negative ways herbs and supplements can interact with prescription medications; health conditions and illnesses; 18 million pages of consumer health information; disease management tools as well as TRICARE benefits and claims information; TRICARE dental programs; online appointment scheduling with primary care managers (Prime and Plus users only).

Inside

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MAC chair surveys Tyndall, pledges support

CAPT. CHRIS KARNs

325th Fighter Wing public affairs

Team Tyndall is more than what is inside its gates. It also encompasses the Bay County community, and a key component of the community is the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

The Military Affairs Committee, otherwise known as the MAC, is dedicated to strengthening relations between Bay County's military and civilian communities, and its chairperson plays a vital role in ensuring those ties remain strong.

Bay County's new Military Affairs Committee chairperson, Karen Hanes, visited Tyndall Monday and Tuesday to learn more about the base, its people and various missions.

"The Tyndall community brings so much to Bay County, in terms of economic impact and participation in the community, from the enlisted (ranks) all the way up (the chain), and I believe the Military Affairs Committee feels a very strong partnership with Tyndall and our other bases," said Mrs. Hanes.

That partnership began in 1946, when the MAC was established. Since then, the MAC has supported the base and gone a long way toward earning Bay County its reputation as one of the most military-friendly communities in the United States.

Comprised of civic leaders from various backgrounds, the MAC, with a current membership of 260 people, has welcomed military members and their families, hosted events in support of high-



Steve Wallace

Karen Hanes, newly-appointed Military Affairs Committee chairperson, and her husband, Ralph, are briefed on the M-82 A1 Barrett 50-caliber rifle by Master Sgt. Todd Jones. (Inset) Mrs. Hanes takes aim and prepares to shoot the rifle.

level visitors, sponsored Tyndall quarterly and annual award programs, and communicated their understanding of the vital missions at Tyndall to community leaders throughout the region and key opinion leaders throughout the nation.

"Our Military Affairs Committee and the community support we receive here are world-class," said Brig. Gen. Larry New, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "The MAC and its chairperson play a critical role in mission accomplishment, as community support is at the heart of our quality of life, and no community does a finer job of making us feel welcome and part of the community than Bay County."

To make her feel part of the Tyndall community, Mrs. Hanes

not only received briefings on the 325th Fighter Wing and various tenant unit missions, but also had the opportunity to meet with some of the men and women charged with those missions.

Mrs. Hanes said the pride Team Tyndall has in its mission and the base's resources — both technological and people — stood out during her visit.

"I walked away from the base admiring several things, the dedication of all personnel on every level that we met and the enthusiasm for what they do every day," said Mrs. Hanes. "I also marveled at some of the technology (available today) versus when I first came on the base years ago, as well as the commitment to excellence."

Mrs. Hanes is no stranger to

the military and its culture. As the publisher of the Panama City News Herald and the Team Tyndall Gulf Defender, she has an in-depth working knowledge and understanding of the demands placed on military members and their families. She also has first-hand experience with various physical demands placed on servicemembers as she has experienced the rigors of the flying mission, having flown in the backseat of an F-15 in March 1992. She also jumped with the U.S. Army Golden Knights in April 2000.

"I believe those experiences have given me a much better understanding of the issues and experiences pilots and others serving in the military face each day

●SEE MAC PAGE 7

F/A-22 ... Revolutionary blend of stealth, supercruise, integrated avionics and maneuverability

Tyndall buzzing with activity

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander



Don't be surprised if you hear "hooah" echoed throughout the base next week. More than 60 Florida Army National Guard sol-

diers from the 146th Signal Battalion, headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., arrive Monday to augment the 325th Security Forces Squadron and provide additional installation security and support. Today, we train and fight in a joint environment and working as a joint U.S. military total force team is the norm, especially at Team Tyndall where active-duty, Guard, Reservists, civilians and the community have joined forces to accomplish the mission. It is important that every member of Team Tyndall makes soldiers feel welcome and that we fully integrate them into the Tyndall-Bay County community.

Without a doubt, the Guard and Reserve professionals have provided critical assistance to Team Tyndall as each component brings a tremendous amount of training,



"It is important that every member of Team Tyndall makes soldiers feel welcome and that we fully integrate them into the Tyndall-Bay County community."

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander

professionalism and expertise to the fight.

Speaking of "hooah," I'd like send out a few notes of congratulations. First in line is Col. Doug Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander. Colonel Cochran reached a milestone in his career this week with 2,000 hours in the F-15 Eagle. A tremendous amount of training, time and effort is accumulated with such an achievement. Colonel Cochran, thanks for your dedication and leadership and congratulations. We look forward to celebrating your next milestone.

I'd also like to congratulate a team that virtually swept the AETC 2002 awards program in their area of expertise—the

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office. Capt. Chris Karns and his team can be proud of a long list of accomplishments this past year. The PA office won top honors in AETC as best Large Wing PA Office, best Internal Information and Community Relations programs, Special Achievement for a Planned Program with their F/A-22 PA operations, and second place in the Media Relations category. Individual award winners were Senior Master Sgt. Rob Fuller, AETC PA Senior NCO of the Year, and Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely, AETC PA NCO of the Year. Again, congratulations to a team of top performers,

●SEE AWARDS PAGE 7

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers. If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Larry D. New

BRIG. GEN. LARRY NEW

325th Fighter Wing commander

Thoughts from above

Pilot recalls flight through space shuttle debris field

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) HYRAL "BUDDY" WALKER JR.

325th Fighter Wing chaplain staff

The morning of Feb. 1 began uneventfully for those of us who fly regularly. I woke up, drove to the base, completed all of the necessary paperwork and pre-flight tasks and lifted off into a gorgeous Bay County morning with Staff Sgt. Tim Bennett in the passenger seat.

Unknown to us, at almost the exact same moment that my Cessna 310 and I were leaving ground on the climb up to 10,000 feet, the space shuttle Columbia was beginning her final descent.

Today's mission was a quick one for Sergeant Bennett and me. We were flying to my hometown of Lufkin, Texas, to deliver a computer I had especially built for my mother and planned to return later that evening. We had no idea that we were flying into a historic event.

During our flight over Louisiana, we were asked to alter our course and monitor the emergency frequency, but we didn't think much of it. About five minutes out from Lufkin, we were asked to alter our course again. With the airport in sight and being the patient pilot I am, I promptly cancelled my instrument flight plan and notified Houston Center that I would be continuing visually to Lufkin. The controller promptly advised me that there were numerous aircraft in the area between Lufkin and Nacogdoches, and to keep a sharp eye out for two F-15s circling over the Nacogdoches airport at about 4,000 feet taking pictures.

At this point, I grew suspicious. I'm used to seeing F-15s in the air near Tyndall Air Force Base, but in the middle of nowhere taking pictures? Even the local pilots around Lufkin don't fly around taking pictures of Nacogdoches.

When we finally landed at Lufkin at about 11:30 a.m., my parents approached the wing and immediately asked if we were OK, and had we hit anything on the way down? Since my mother has flown with me before and knew first-hand that I usually try not to hit anything but the ground when landing, I grew suspicious. Before I could ask a question of my own, however, she said, "The space shuttle blew up this morning and there are parts of it falling all over Texas." The words didn't hit me immediately, though, as we offloaded the computer.

Soon, however, my little hometown airport began to buzz. The airport at Nacogdoches had debris scattered on the field, so aircraft were evacuated to Lufkin. The hangars at Nacogdoches were going to be used to store

●SEE SHUTTLE PAGE 3

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chaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or emailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

● **FROM SHUTTLE PAGE 2**
and secure debris, so everyone involved in the search for debris arrived, including NASA, a Federal Aviation Administration aircraft and Army Blackhawk helicopters.

Finally, I began to piece it all together. Based on what the locals were telling us, Sergeant Bennett and I had flown through a 100-mile trail of debris on our way down. I felt this compulsion to feel the leading edges of my plane, and look for any signs of impact. Somehow, and the more I think about it, the more miraculous it seems, we were unscratched. Well, that is to say, there didn't appear to be any new removals of the few inches of paint left on N1144Q's windward side. The aircraft has taken years of pounding from rain and low-altitude bugs. A strange feeling possessed me as I realized where we'd just come from.

As the day wore on, we pondered a much larger providential hand passing over the almost 300,000-square-mile area literally rained upon by the remains of our beloved spacecraft. We marveled that only a couple dozen people reported minor injuries from falling debris.

Throughout the day, stories

poured in as people recounted where they had been and what they had been doing when the tragedy occurred. By Saturday night, I felt compelled to do something.

My senior chaplains were gracious enough to allow me an unscheduled overnight so that I might lend my services. After conferring

“Based on what the locals were telling us, Sergeant Bennett and I had flown through a 100-mile trail of debris on our way down.”

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) HYRAL “BUDDY” WALKER
Flew through Columbia's debris trail Feb. 1

with Sergeant Bennett, he, like everybody I've ever encountered in the Air Force, said without hesitation, “let's do it.”

The next morning, we drove to downtown Nacogdoches to locate the on-scene commander. All those major accident response exercises at Tyndall had us programmed to go straight to work. You never know when your training will be put to use.

We approached a cordon crowded with media, law enforcement personnel and National Guardsmen. Locating the command center, Sergeant Bennett and I were signed in along with several other

civilian volunteers from all over the area.

We told them we were critical incident stress management-trained and ready, and I was an Air Force chaplain here to help. Humility, it seems, was present also. A group of Baptists had arrived earlier that morning and were setting up a mo-

bile kitchen with hot meals prepared for hundreds. Dozens of Texas Disaster Relief Corps workers were donning yellow windbreakers with “CHAPLAIN” embossed on the back. Then, a man walked by with “ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) CHAPLAIN” on his windbreaker. I didn't even know the ATF had chaplains. Wow, talk about job security; whiskey, smokes, guns ... and God?

At that moment, I turned back to the Texas Forest Service ranger who had signed us in and said, “I also have a portable GPS for mapping pieces, if that would be more

useful, since it looks like you have the religious end covered pretty well.”

Sergeant Bennett and I worked with the Nacogdoches Sheriff's department as they continued plotting hundreds of debris sightings from our location. A deputy I worked with had the task of cataloging debris items, faxing each individually to NASA, coordinating security for each site with hundreds of Reserve deputies and Guardsmen and keeping the media at bay.

That evening, I called to check on my best friend, Jennifer Miller, who works at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Jennifer actually trained some of the Columbia's crew and, like all of the NASA family, she had been in a state of shock and grief for most of the day.

In spite of tragedy, though, there is a tendency for us to roll up our sleeves, even as we mourn, and I found the perfect epitaph in the efforts of the NASA scientific community.

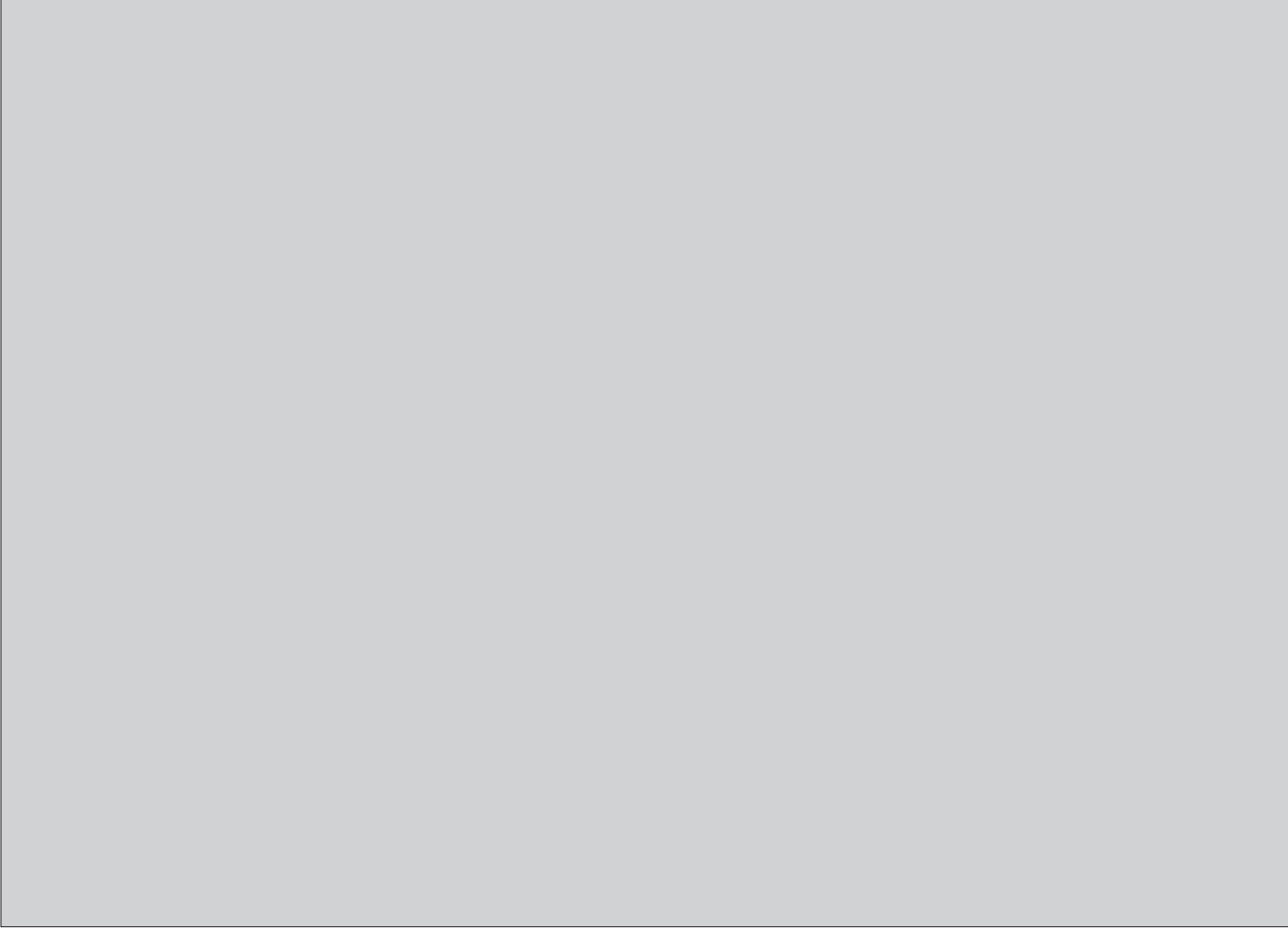
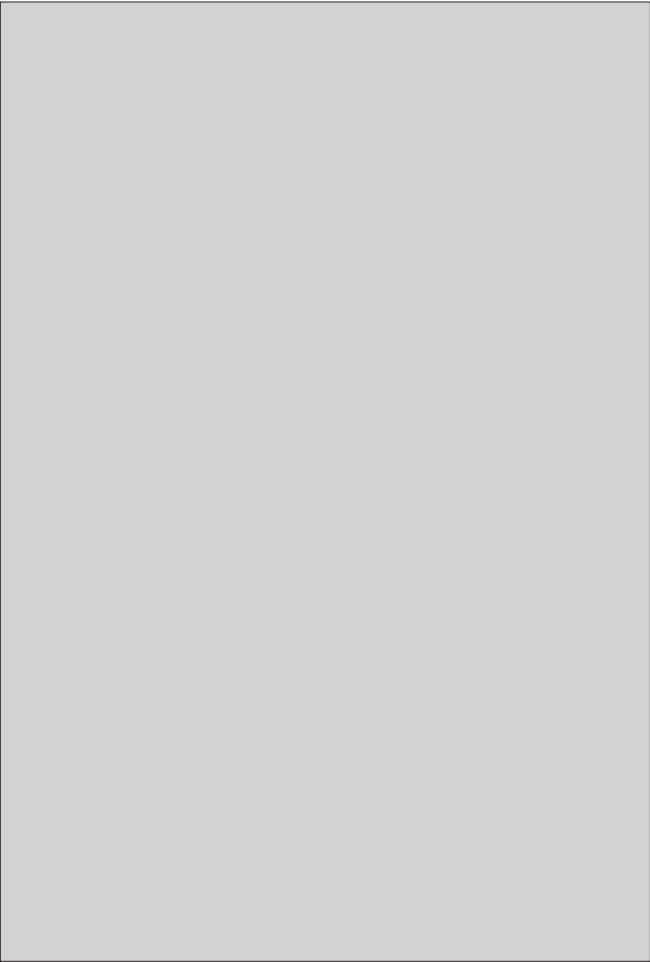
Jennifer reminded me of the critically important experiments that were conducted onboard Columbia during the previous week, with potentially life-saving data transmitted to, and received in, Houston.

While most of us were asking, “What's going to happen next,” these amazing people went to work studying the results of the fruitful labors of Columbia's crew. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the elusive clue leading to the cure for an old enemy of human health were found amidst this mission's data?

Sunday night, after our lingering goodbyes with family and friends on the Lufkin ramp, we taxied to the end of the runway for takeoff. The controller gave us the newest Temporary Flight Restrictions for the airspace overlying Columbia's recovery. “That entire region is under Southeast Air Defense Sector right now,” he'd said. Yeah, another long reach of my Air Force family's protective arm, even way off out here in the boonies where I grew up. It's comforting, somehow.

As my old plane wobbled and roared down the runway, breaking ground and turning effortlessly eastward, I looked down over the piney woods with a strange feeling of closeness with everyone in and of the sky. And just before changing radio frequencies to a new controller, a voice from the Lufkin frequency said, “be careful.”

Amen.



Gas pumps plus static electricity equals cause for concern

ROBERT ANDERSON

Asst. Chief, Fire Prevention 325th Civil Engineer Squadron

Static electricity-related fires at retail gasoline outlets are extremely rare. However, the number of occurrences over the last few years has caused enough concern to warrant public awareness. Static electricity buildup is most likely to occur during the fall and winter months, when the air is cool or cold and dry.

To date, more than 150 incidents have occurred nationwide that have resulted in numerous injuries, property damage and one fatality.

Caution signs, warning signs and labels are posted on gas pumps advising the motorist of things to do prior to transferring fuel; i.e., turn off motor, extinguish smoking material and other pertinent information. However, fueling instructions are not always located in one general location at gas pumps. The gas pump user may find fueling instructions on a column as they approach the pump and other information on the side or the front of the gas pump itself.

Unfortunately, caution signs and labels may get overlooked with this posting arrangement especially during inclement weather or during hot and cold temperatures when the user is in a hurry to seek shelter.

Air Force Fire Protection has provided the following information to protect gas pump users from the possibility of being involved in a fire incident at the gas pump. Here are some safe-refueling and fuel-handling guidelines for consumers:

❑ Turn off your vehicle engine while refueling. Put your vehicle in park and/or set the emergency brake. Disable or turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as a camper or trailer heater, cooking units or pilot lights.

❑ Do not smoke, light matches or lighters

while refueling at the pump or when using gasoline anywhere else.

❑ Manually pump the fuel into the vehicle using the hand lever. If you must leave the nozzle area while the fuel is being dispensed, use only the refueling latch provided on the gasoline dispenser nozzle—never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open.

❑ Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling. This simple act can cause a buildup of static electricity and cause a spark when you touch the nozzle. If you must re-enter the vehicle, make sure you discharge any static buildup upon exiting the car before going back to the pump nozzle. This can be done safely by touching a metal part of the vehicle, such as the door, or some other metal surface, with a bare hand.

❑ Do not over-fill or top-off your vehicle tank, which can cause gasoline spillage.

❑ Do not fill gas cans while they are inside a vehicle or in the bed of a vehicle. Filling gasoline cans inside a vehicle or in the bed of a vehicle can also cause a buildup of static electricity. The bed liner, the plastic container or other materials that separate the gasoline from the ground can result in a spark at the nozzle and ignite the gasoline vapors. To avoid this situation, gasoline containers—whether plastic or metal—must be placed on the ground before filling.

❑ When dispensing gasoline into a container, use only an approved portable container and place it on the ground when refu-

eling to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Only store gasoline in approved containers as required by federal or state authorities.

Never store gasoline in glass or any other unapproved containers.

❑ When filling a portable container, manually control the nozzle valve throughout the filling process. Fill a portable container slowly to decrease the chance of

static electricity buildup and minimize spilling or splattering.

❑ Fill the container no more than 95 percent full to allow for expansion.

❑ Place the cap tightly on the container after filling - do not use containers that do not seal properly.

❑ If gasoline spills on the container, make sure that it has evaporated before you place the container in your vehicle. Report spills to the attendant.

❑ In the unlikely event a static-caused fire occurs, take the following action:

● Leave the nozzle in the fill pipe of your vehicle and back off!

● Shut down the pump!

● Immediately notify the station attendant to shut off all dispensing devices and pumps with emergency controls, or

● Use the emergency shutdown

button to shut off the pump and use the emergency intercom to summon help.

● Some 24-hour self service stations will not have an attendant so you must use the emergency shutoff yourself.

● Get everyone out of the vehicle from the opposite side.

● Call the fire department (911).

● Use available fire extinguisher.

❑ When transporting gasoline in a portable container make sure it is secured against tipping and sliding, and never leave it in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.

❑ And finally, a reminder to not use cell phones while refueling your vehicle.

Here are some health considerations to keep in mind:

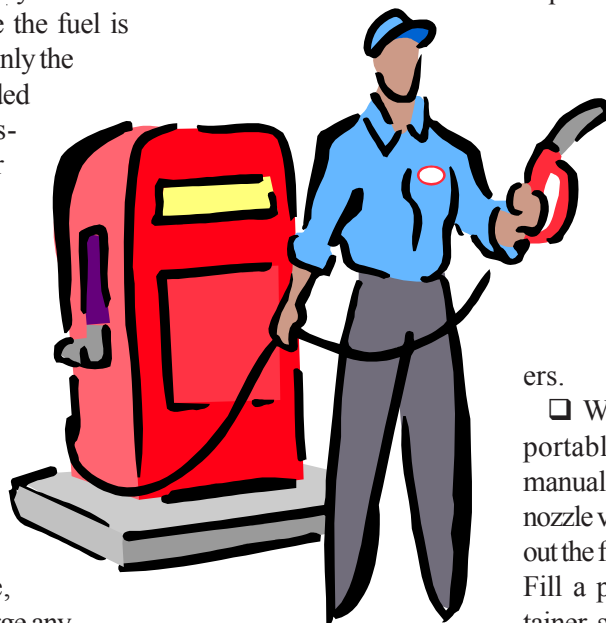
❑ Avoid prolonged breathing of gasoline vapors. Use gasoline only in open areas that get plenty of fresh air. Keep your face away from the nozzle or container opening.

❑ Never siphon gasoline by mouth or put gasoline in your mouth for any reason. Gasoline can be harmful or fatal if swallowed. If someone swallows gasoline, do not induce vomiting. Contact a doctor immediately.

❑ Keep gasoline away from your eyes and skin; it may cause irritation. Remove gasoline-soaked clothing immediately.

❑ Use gasoline as a motor fuel only. Never use gasoline to wash your hands or as a cleaning solvent.

Consumers can minimize these and other potential fueling hazards by following safe refueling procedures all year long. For more information on avoiding potential problems with static electricity buildup at the pump, and other safe motor fuel refueling, storage and handling guidelines, see the American Petroleum Institute's Web site at www.api.org/consumer, and the Petroleum Equipment Institute's Web site at www.pei.org/static or call the fire prevention office at 283-2909.





ARTICLE 15s

The following adverse actions took place at Tyndall Air Force Base in January.

Article 15s

☞ An airman first class from the 325th Maintenance Squadron was given a suspended reduction to airman, 30 days correctional custody and a reprimand for failing to report to work on time.

☞ An airman first class from the 325th Security Forces Squadron was given a suspended reduction to airman, forfeited \$100 pay for two months, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand for failing to obey a lawful order and making a false official statement.

☞ An airman first class from the 325th Services Squad-

ron was reduced to airman, given 30 days extra duty and was reprimanded for larceny.

☞ A senior airman from the 325th SVS was reduced to airman first class, given 30 days extra duty and was reprimanded for larceny.

Administrative discharges

☞ A senior airman from the 325th SFS received a general discharge for a series of minor disciplinary infractions.

☞ An airman first class from the 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received a general discharge for a series of minor disciplinary infractions.

(Courtesy base legal office)

Commissary scholarship deadline nears

Applications for \$1,500 Scholarships for Military Children are due at the Tyndall Commissary by Feb. 21. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. The applicant must

be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited four-year college or university full-time in the fall term of 2003.

Everything applicants need to know is in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the scholarship page at www.commissaries.com. The application can be downloaded and filled out by hand, or filled out on the computer and saved as a file. Copies of

the application are also available at commissaries.

The program has awarded 920 scholarships and nearly \$1.5 million since the first awards were given in 2001. Scholarships are funded through the voluntary donations of the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries.

For more information, call 284-3102.



Senior Master Sgt. Rob Fuller

Star-spangled produce?

Customers at the commissary search through rows of tomatoes, onions and grapes during a "Land of the Free" celebration last week. A team of evaluators from the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters in Fort Lee, Va., inspected everything from customer service and product availability to leadership and facility condition. Tyndall's commissary will compete for the Best Large Store in DeCA.

Air Force, Navy robots put their heads together

1ST LT. ELAINE HUNNICUTT

Air Force Research Laboratory public affairs

The Air Force Research Laboratory, Navy and Florida State University evaluated their integrated technologies during a maritime incident demonstration Feb. 4-5 in Niceville, Fla.

The Integrated Technology Demonstration was run under the direction of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Approximately 140 people from the three organizations helped make this demonstration a success for the DTRA.

"The last 48 hours proved to be a test bed of opportunity," said Matt Holm, DTRA Integrated Technology Development program manager.

According to Mr. Holm, the DTRA set out to integrate four areas and accomplished what they set out to do. The four areas included: Indicators (sensors/network); survivability (use of robots vs. people in harm's way); consequence management (through computer modeling) and attribution (tying the forensic evidence back to the culprits).

"We achieved all four objectives without question and successfully brought new capabilities to the department," Mr. Holm said.

The AFRL Robotics Research Group at Tyndall Air Force Base and the Navy's Coastal Systems Station from Panama City Beach, Fla., deployed a number of unmanned robots, including vehicles that swim, crawl and fly to detect the potential actions of weapons of mass destruction.

These systems were controlled by a common command and control architecture and are the first developmental step in creating a common operator interface for concurrent control of multiple types of unmanned systems.

During the demonstration, the AFRL also successfully integrated land and sea-based sensors into one common network. In addition, a mobile network of chemical, meteorological and video sensors monitored events within the exercise area. The sensors were linked to a simulated command center and provided early indication and warning that a specific type of hazardous incident had occurred.

This technology will enhance an incident commander's ability to acquire accurate data quickly



Sue Hamner

Shane Gilmore, Air Force Research Laboratory Robotics Research Group, moves the Modular Aerial Vehicle into position during a demonstration in Niceville, Fla. Feb. 4 and 5.

and without risk to initial response teams.

The demonstration also tested enhanced computer simulation tools designed to improve coordination, integration, communications and planning among participating agencies.

Specifically, the Industrial Transportation Model designed to determine the consequences of an industrial transportation accident resulting in a toxic chemical release was used for the first time. This computer-modeling program provides detailed scientific prediction of a transportation accident using multiple computational applications and integrated source information.

Additionally, the FSU diving unit provided forensics support during the ITD.

With the integration of the information provided by sensors, computer modeling and underwater forensics, the incident commander can combine and manipulate multiple layers of information on a variety of visual information backgrounds and maps, thereby creating a picture of the situation.

The information will allow the commander to make better decisions in managing the consequences of the situation. The integration of these systems will create a powerful, integrated web of information exchange that will revolutionize consequence management.

The DTRA ITD was a sub exercise of a bigger exercise, CHER-CAP/PREP that was going on simultaneously.

The Comprehensive Hazardous Materials Emergency Response and Capability Assessment Program/National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program combined the efforts of more than 50 local, state and federal agencies and provided an appropriate test bed for the DTRA demonstration.

CHER-CAP/PREP is a large-scale emergency response exercise intended to evaluate the proficiency of response agencies.

The exercise took place at the CITGO Petroleum Corporation terminal and simulated a terrorist maritime attack on the facility involving hazardous materials.

According to Capt. Tim Schulteis, AFRL Robotics Research Group technical director, there are approximately 200 different types of unmanned systems throughout the Department of Defense. Most of them are "stovepipe" systems, meaning they aren't capable of operating in conjunction with any other systems.

"By bringing together the Navy and Air Force (technologies), it's a step toward showing the capability of systems functioning together under a common operating network. The joint architecture we are using for this exercise (Joint Architecture for Unmanned Systems) will help eliminate duplication and reduce the

●SEE AFRL PAGE 15

Checkertail Salute



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Bain is awarded the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award by Col. Douglas Cochran, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Bain who developed a local Air Force Equal Opportunity Climate Assessment computerized training package, which has enabled the MEO office to pro-

Staff Sgt. Napoleon Bain

Duty title: Military equal opportunity specialist

Unit: 325th Fighter Wing

Time on station: 1.5 years

Time in service: 15 years

Hometown: Fayetteville, N.C.

Hobbies: Fishing, art and wine-tasting

Goals: To be recognized as an outstanding Air Force recruiter, then retire honorably.

Favorite thing about Tyndall: Scenery, fishing and the people

Pet peeves: Bad drivers, sloppy uniforms and rude and inconsiderate people.

Favorite book: Bible

Favorite movie: "Gardens of Stone" and "Cornbread, Earl and Me"

vide commanders current, reliable information on their human relations climate in an expeditious manner — increasing reporting-results time by 70 percent.

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

● FROM AWARDS PAGE 2

we look forward to a stellar year in 2003.

Today presents a great opportunity, especially for those who are a bit romantic. Valentine's Day gives each of us yet another chance to express to someone special in our lives just how much they mean to us. Our chosen profession often keeps us away from home, either through long hours or temporary duty, so we should take advantage of every window of opportunity to thank our loved ones and show our appreciation for their support. Enjoy Valentine's Day and take a look at some Valentine's messages we've compiled from folks around the base on pages 8-10. Don't laugh at my poetic ineptness; it's the thought that counts, right?

Thanking our loved ones is important, and we also want to help them better understand the Air Force mission and their role in it. The Heart Link program is designed to do just that and it kicks off here Feb. 21 with the first group of spouses attending the seminar. It's an orientation program directed by the Air Force Chief of Staff that fo-

cuses on spouses with less than five years in the military environment. There are still some openings for this first seminar and if you are interested or want more information, feel free to contact the family support center at 283-4204.

This month is designated Black History Month, and we celebrate it by recognizing those pioneers in our nation and Air Force history that served to make both better places for us all to live and work. This year the project officer is Staff Sgt. Darrell Gary, 325th Communications Squadron, and he is planning several events to honor African-American men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation. Additional information on these programs will be published in future Gulf Defender editions.

Finally, this is a three-day weekend and although I want everyone to enjoy the well-deserved time off, I also want everyone back on Tuesday morning. Be safe by applying personal risk management, brief your shops and flights to be safe, look out for each other and have a great weekend!

● FROM MAC PAGE 1

and provide me a unique perspective...as to Tyndall's different missions."

Mrs. Hanes sees Bay County continuing its legacy of service to its military and playing a vital role in military operations by "posturing itself community wise" in the event an increased military presence is required across the globe.

Mrs. Hanes is taking a "we're here to serve" approach and discussed the importance of having the entire community become more knowledgeable about military operations.

She strongly believes one key to the MAC and base's future success is ongoing education — getting the word out, educating others, facilitating open dialogue with key opinion leaders and encouraging participation in base ac-

tivities such as the Gulf Coast Salute and Heritage Day to increase awareness of the value of the base and its people. Ultimately, she hopes to grow the MAC membership to 300-plus people.

"We're here to offer support," Mrs. Hanes said. "Knowing some of our military personnel could be put in harm's way, we want to let military people know that we are here for them," she said.

**To those who are deployed or
couldn't be with loved ones, Team
Tyndall salutes you!**

To my valentine,
you're the best thing
that ever happened
to me and you are
greatly appreciated
and loved.

Lynn

Jaime,
You are one of the best
things in my life. Thanks
for being perfect.

Love, Chris

**Happy Valentine's Day
to Becky Nicastro with
lots of love.**

Nick

Lori,
You are nothing
short of my every-
thing! I am yours
forever and a day!
Love, Tim

Noah Michael Nunez,
You are a God given
gift, we will love you always.
Mom and Dad

**To my babygirl, Shelly, I
lovers'...A**

My dearest Stan,
I loved you yester-
day, I love you today,
and I will love you all
the days of our lives.
Thank you for being
a Christian husband
and Dad!

My love forever,
Faye

Happy Valentine's Day
Joe, I love you!!
Bekki

Connie,
I love you with all of
my heart. I think about
you everyday. Happy
Valentine's Day. See you
soon.

Love, Steve

Julie Marshall,
Zachary and I love
you with all our
hearts. Happy
Valentine's Day!

Heidi,
I love you with all of my
heart, thanks for always
being there.
Love Brian

McNally,
Thanks for everything
you do for me! You're the
Best!

All my Love, Timo

I would like to send
a happy St. Valentine
wish to Jalen Salmon,
Bryan Garnet,
J'Vonne Wilson,
Michelle
MacMeniman,
Tinnelle Rollinger,
Keenan Pullin,
Laverne Griggs,
Rachel Bias, Nikki
Morris, Sean Miller,
Holliday and Damen
Ellison. Please don't
give up on me. Love
always, Nardia

To my Sweet-
heart Sue:

Roses are
Red,
Violets are
Blue. This
cot for a bed
is the pits
without you!

Sorry, honey,
best I could do with all
this Arabian Gulf dust
eating away my brain.
Living for the day I can
hold you once more! All my
love

Dan
P.S. 155 and counting
down!

To Cindee,
Thank you for being the
woman that you are.
Love, Randy

To Sherri,
Amethyst is purple
and Mason is brown,
I'm always glad to
visit your side of
town. But your love
is always near to my
heart.

Love, Don

Glenn Boe,
Thank you for always
staying beside me in good
times and in bad times.
I love you,
Sondra Dee

Nicole,
All my love.
Always!
Robert II

To the Clan (PC),
You are all my very
special valentines. I
miss you every day I
can not be with you
and always send my
Hugs and Kisses.
AT/Daddy

To my favorite Chief-to-
be,
You are the greatest
thing that has happened to
me. I look forward to each
and every day with you. I
love you times infinity too!
You rule, no reservations!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Always, T

To TDL
From EHL
Sweetheart, I miss you

when we are
apart, and
appreciate
your help
in my life
in so many
ways,

I thank God
for our time
together, I love you,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Hugs and Kisses!

Gorgeous,
You are the love of
my life and I am
blessed everyday
that we share to-
gether. I love you,
Mike

Dear Mrs. Standesky,
Our 14 years together
have been the best of my
life! I love you with every
bit of my heart and soul!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Mr. Standesky

To: Mac "My Soulmate"
I Love You, Happy
Valentine's Day
Love, Edi

To Diane, Laura and
Madison
From Brent,
Roses are red
Violets are blue, You
make my world go
round, I love you.

Susan,
The days dwindle till I
depart to do my duty. Each
day I have left with you
grows more precious. While
we are apart may my
service be worthy of your
love and devotion.

Greg

**Happy Valentine's Day
to my little angel Rosalyn
Henry
Love Mom**

Sweetheart,
For all that you are,
and all that you do;
This goofy guy is
madly in love with
you!

Thank you for being
my 'forever Valen-
tine'!

Love,
DPH

Dear Imelda,
First, thanks for the last
wonderful 14 years! May
our love remain untarnished
as we go through this road
called "life" together.
Happy Valentine's Day.
Today...Always...Love,
Rigo

**Happy Valentine's Day
to Alucia Davis, the love
of my life, from your
hubby Keith. I would say
that you're my "better
half" but I would be falling
short... you make up more
like 3/4th of what's great
about us! ;-)**

I would like to tell
my wife, Staff Sgt.
Sherry Rivera, that I
love her more than
words can say and
she's due to have
our first child on
Feb. 19. She makes
me feel like a kid in a
candy store
everytime I see her.
Also, happy birthday.
Love Joey Rivera

Yvette Marie,
Love you always. Thank
you for being a wonderful
wife and mother.
Chris

17 years
and still
going
strong! I am
so PROUD of
you. Forever
Honey Bunnies
playing in the field! I
love you, Happy
Valentine's Day!

To my husband
Everett
This past year has
been one of many
medical problems
and deaths. How-
ever, our strength
and support of each
is a great tribute to
our love for each
other. I love you and
will into eternity.

Janet

Happy Valentine's Day
babe.
Love,
Me

**Punchkin Patsy,
Happy Valentine's Day
from Orth. We both need
a vacation.... Have a
great day!**
Love, DHC

**Happy Valentine's
Day to my babies
Kaela and Cami.**
Mommy loves you.

Kim,
SBLV
Always & Forever,
Chris

Nadine,
If I could only have one
friend in the entire world,
I would want that friend
to be you.....Happy
Valentine's Day.
Big Daddy

Happy Valentine's
Kim
I hope you enjoyed
your trip
I will be thinking of
you, forever.
The One

Tammy
My Loving Valentine...I
don't remember the last
time I said "I
Love You",
but I do
know
without you,
life would
never feel
the same and I
want to stay with
you forever.
Love, Mike

**My Dearest Janel,
I love you now and
forever.**

Jason

**To: Our Chief and his
wife, Sandra
Happy Valentine's Day
from 325 CS Support
Flight.**

B -

My favorite memory
is your smile. Be
safe, be strong,
come home soon. All
my love forever.

-E

**Team Tyndall
Valentine's
Messages**

To Lisa,
Every night I thank the
Lord for bringing you into
my life. Every day I thank
you for giving me a life.
Love you forever,
Keith

Kenedy Brooke,
Happy Valentine's Day,
baby girl! Mommy loves
you."

Snoop Dog Biggie
Big,
I love you very
much. You are the
best husband ever!
Love, your wife,
Xena, Warrior
Princess

Susan,
You mean more to me now
than I could ever have
imagined. Thank God for
sending me to that newspa-
per to find the one that
would help me through this
life. I love you forever,
Me

Deeders,
You're still the love of
my life!!!
Michael

To my Sweetie-pie,
honey bunch-

I can't believe this
last year-and-a-half
has just flown by. I
love you more than
anything in the world.
Let's spend the rest
of our lives together.
The kids and I are
still happy to have
you in our lives!

From the love of
your life

ndall sends
ne's Day
ages!

Happy Valentine's Day
my darling Rebecca
— J.

To my wife Michele,
Happy Valentine's Day
I truly love you!
Garry

To my loving wife
Gail.

Thanks for always
being there for me
and the kids. You
mean the world to me
and I love you with all
my heart.

Your loving hus-
band,
Chip

To Lucy,
After 24 years of
marriage, I thank God
because you get more
beautiful every year. Happy
Anniversary/Valentine's
Day.

Love Rick Acevedo

Jon,
Thank you for every
thing you have given to
me and for everything you
have taught me in the past
four years. I love you
very much. You have my
heart.

Love,
Stephanie

Valerie Johnson,
I love you because:
You're My partner
and My companion
through good times
and bad, My friend
and My buddy
through happy and
sad, Beside me you
stand, Beside me
you walk, You're
there to listen,
You're there to talk,
With happiness, With
smiles, With pain and
tears, And I know
you'll be there
throughout the years!

I love you Babe!
With all my heart!

Tim

Sharon,
Thank you for all you
have done, and all that you
are. I love you. Happy
Valentine's Day.

Anthony

Hey Beauti-
ful,

Just
wanted
to wish
my
baby a
Happy
Valentine's
Day.

Anh Yeu
Em

x Chino x

To Rachel,
Happy Valentine's
Day!

Love Jesse &
Michael

Whoso findeth a wife
findeth a good thing, and
obtaineth favor of the
Lord." (Pr 18:22)

I am so glad that I let the
Lord find you for me!
Love Ya!!!

Terry

Pam,
For the times you stood
by me when anyone else
would have left, for the
times you understood when
no one would have cared,
and for the times you
loved me without any
reason at all. I owe you
my life. I am, and always
will be, your valentine. I
love you the mostest plus
one.

Ron

To the Hoflund
family, Cheryl, Lance,
Matthew and
Kandice. Happy
Valentines, I love you
all very much.

Love Dad!

Dear "Carol", the
wannabe Marine,

This is the year of our
great adventure....Retire
and "On the Road we shall
go"

Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Chief Master Sgt.
Ron Georgia

Danielle,
You have made my life
so much better. I will love
you 4ever! Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love always,
Scott.

Dearest
Carrie,

I am
miss-
ing
your
sur-
repti-
tious
smile.

You're the
one.

Jon

Happy Valentines to my
parents, Don and Ellen
Foreman.

I love you both!
Renee

Sandy,
To my wife with whom I
spend my life. I Love you
now, as much as then!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Chris

Matt,
Happy Valentine's
Day.

I love
you.

MFR

Christy,
Happy
Valentine's
Day to the
love of my
life.

Greg

For the one who I loved
at first sight.

For the one I prayed for
every night.

For the one who has
never let me down.

For the one God has let
me found.

For the one who was sent
from above.

For the one who is my
only love.

I love you Everette,
(Airman 1st Class Law)
From Wilhelmina
(Airman 1st Class Law)

I love you Misty
Tue. Happy
Valentine's Day!

Yours always,
Micheal

Linda,
You are my "Special"
Valentine, today and every
day. I love you!
Skip

To My three Daughters
Amber, Courtney, & Mia
Happy Valentine's Day!
I love you and thank
you for your support.
Mama

Vicky,
You will be my
Valentine for as long
as we live.

Jason,
You are the love of my
life and my best friend.
Happy Valentine's Day
Love Always,
Heather

Tim,
Thank you so much for
coming into my life and
turning it right side up!
Your persistence has
changed my world and
made me the happiest I've
ever been. I LOVE YOU
more & more every day.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Love,
Lori

Shanna
baby,
You are
my love,
my best
friend, my soul
mate. Thank you

for making my
dreams come true
and sharing your life
with me. I'll always
love you. Happy
Valentine's Day,
sweetie.

Manny

Kirsten,
Thanks for always being
there for me and for all the
sacrifices you have made
over the past few years.
You are the best part of my
life and I am so fortunate to
have found somebody as
special as you. I love you!
Chris

Dear Moody,
I love you most because,
through everything, you
make me laugh. Always &
Forever.

Kim

Stephen,
I love you now and
forever. I look for-
ward to celebrating
our 19th Anniversary
this year. Love
Always,
Kim

Rodney,
You are my best friend
and I love you with all my
heart!
Becca

Happy Valentine's Day
to handsome son, Kyle
White, and to my extraor-
dinary better half, Daniel
Jones

Happy "Heavenly"
Birthday, Marissa
Gabrielle Myers
2/14/95 to 8/7/98
Today is National
Organ Donor Recog-
nition Day and would
have been Marissa's
8th Birthday. She
saved 4 lives be-
cause of her gener-
ous gift of life. In
honor of Marissa's
life, please help us
celebrate by signing
up to be an organ
donor today in her
memory. Happy
Valentine's Day, My
Angel, Marissa.
All our Love,
Maw-maw & Pa-Pa

Gab,
Once again it's another
year of marriage and
another year to celebrate
the lives we have created. I
am blessed to have you by
my side. I love you and what
we have together. I cherish
the time we have.

Love your husband,
Mike "TAZ" Riley

"On the day that you
were born, the angels got
together and decided to
create a dream come
true"...

Matthew, I look forward
to growing *closer to you*
over the years.

Love,
Elizabeth

John,
My heart awoke
with passion's flame
the very day you
spoke my name.
Thanks for loving me!
Your Valentine,
Always,
Regi

"Happy Valentine's Day
to my favorite person"
Thank you for being my
rock and my speed bump in
life. My eternal love
forever and ever,
Your favorite seashell
lady

SEE VALENTINE PAGE 10

Diane,
You're my valentine and
I'm so glad it's true
For my greatest joy is
being with you
We have so many years
together in time
That I don't even have
to ask for you to be mine
But that doesn't mean I
don't care a lot
I won't take you for
granted for my heart you
have caught
That is why I'm taking
the time
To rhyme these words
and make sure you're
mine!
Love,
Larry

Markel,
Thank you for being the
person you are! You have
made this TDY much
easier for me! I'm glad you
are a part of my life.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Tina

My Sweet Valentine,
I love you with my
heart! You are my Cupid
and have shot your arrow
of love in me. I have a
surprise for you tonight.
Hint: Anniversary Day
Cruise
SHMILY

Brian,
Happy Anniversary!
Thank you for being
a wonderful husband
and my best friend!
I love you,
Cindy

To Stacy
Words are not sufficient
to express my love for you.
I'm glad you are my wife.
Love,
Sugar Booger

Snuggle Bear,
I love you,
Tyger

Benito,
You are the reason
I smile every day. Tu
eres mi vida. I love
you today and al-
ways. Happy
Valentine's Day!
Tu Esposa

To Cricket
Your childhood sweet-
heart wants to tell you that
you are very special to
her...just because. Trials
come to make us strong.
Missing you.
Gayle

Raylynn,
To the one I love, the
one I adore,
Everyday my love
grows more and more.
Happy Valentine's Day.
I Love You,
Marty

Mesa
You are my love,
my pretty, my beauti-
ful, my wife, and my
friend.
Would you be my
Valentine for another
10 years? Good!
I love you,
Rob

This has been a wonderful
journey with the both of you.
I love you,
Mommy/Tawnya

Mom,
We thank God every day
for making you our Mom.
We appreciate everything
you do for us.
Ramey, Michael and
Mathias

Michelle,
Happy anniversary
to the one true love
of my life. You are a
slice of heaven that
God has given me
and I will cherish you
'till the day I die. You
have made sense of
everything around
me. I thank you from
the bottom of my
heart.
Roy

Bunnie,
I just want to thank you
for everything you do for
me!
You know I can never
repay you, but I know you
will take a simple thank you
and I love you, and call it
paid....
Puppy!

Bratl,
"Evil is but a shadow...
It is nothing but the
darkness which can become
light through love and
friendship. Change is just
another way of God asking
you to follow his path."

To Sweetums,
You always look in
the paper for a mes-
sage to you on
Valentine's Day. I'm
sorry this is the first
time that I've given
you one. I love you -
Happy Valentine's
Day!

Kristy,
To my baby with the bluest
eyes in Texas. My true
love, #1 fan, and best
friend. Happy Valentine's
Day, sweetie, and welcome
to our new home! It's your
love...
Always and Forever,
Archie

To my A1C (Dominic):
Together we've made it.
Another year has passed
us by while our test of
friendship, patience, and
love continues to grow.
It hasn't been easy for
either one of us, but I'm
very blessed to have you
by my side as well as a
part of you growing
inside!

I love you to the moon
and back again. You'll
always be my A1C (Always
1st Choice)!!!
Your Wifey

Brad,
Happy Valentine's
Day.
I love you,
Sarah

Grace, Ian and
Veronica,
Happy Valentine's Day
Love,
Sarah and Brad

To my Punchkin,
I love you,
Daddy

I love you Prince &
Ashlynn, you're my
Valentines throughout
the year! Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love,
Linnea

Kristie,
You are my LOL. It's so
right...
Love,
Me

To my loving wife Gina,
Thanks for showing me
what it means to truly
love someone and thanks
for giving me the opportu-
nity to love you in return.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Anthony

Misty Crawford,
To love and cherish
you for the rest of
time is the least I can
give my loving wife
on this beautiful day.
Happy Valentine's
baby!
Senior Airman Kevin
Crawford (1AMU)

I shall never forget when
you first said that you loved
me and whispered it in my
ear so softly and gently
that only my heart could
hear.
Happy Valentine's Day,
Eya
Love Emme

Bianka,
Only you intoxicate my
soul with passion
Only you flood my being
with bliss
Only you can make my
spirit soar
You, only you
Happy Valentine's Day,
My Love
Your Eternally Grateful
& Loving Husband,
Jake

Mike,
Thanks for always
being there for me.
You are the wind
beneath my wings.
Love,
Tammy

Michael Pelfrey,
I love you and I hope one
day we can be together
again I love you and happy
Valentine's Day baby
Love forever always,
Jackie Rivera

Charlotte
Thanks for being my
Valentine of 23 fantastic
years.
George

Michael,
Even though you
are a big boy now,
just know that you
will always be my
"Sunshine" and my
"Babydoll"!
I love you,
M o m m y

Kisha,
You have been my best friend and confidant for as long as I can remember. The love of my life, and fantastic mother of our children. Each and every day I give thanks for your presence in my life. You are my sun and my moon. With you I can do all. Without you I am nothing. I love you dearly. Happy Valentine's Day!
Love always,
Terry

PP,
You're the best husband & dad a woman could find. I'm glad I can say that you are all mine.
Happy Valentine's Day, VP

Charles,
You are my friend, my lover and my life. Thanks for 10 years of love and happiness.
Happy Valentine's Day Love, Gina

ME2,
ILYWAMH
Happy Valentine's Day!
ME

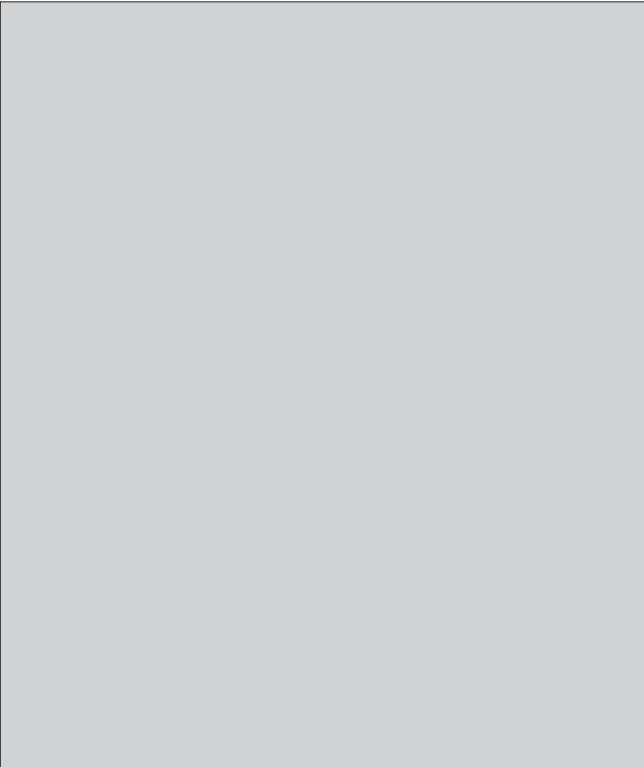
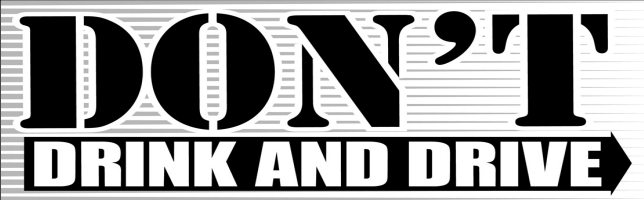
Christy,
I love you more than anything in the world.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Rob O

Capt Tammy D.,
Thanks for being a Valentine friend.
Ollie

To the 5 guys I love with all my heart.
You are very special to me, with each having their own unique personality.
To my husband-Mike, and my 4 sons-Alex, Josiah, Mason & Jared
Love,
Sheila 'aka' Mom

Terry, Christina, Patrick, Jeffrey, Michael, Jacob, Seth, Caleb, Noah and Ruth,
I am truly blessed to have you all as my Valentines.
I love you,
Dad

Ramey, Michael and Mathias,
Happy Valentine's Day,
Daddy



Ladies' night over Afghanistan

CAPT. ELIZABETH ORTIZ
376th Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFPN) —
In one of her songs, country singer Shania Twain croons about all the things women do these days — they are judges, politicians, doctors and soldiers, to name a few.

Not mentioned in the song, but occurring more frequently as the global war on terrorism continues, is something else: female fliers in combat missions over Afghanistan.

Early on Jan. 31, a KC-135 Stratotanker took off from Ganci Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, carrying more than 180,000 pounds of fuel and an all-female crew — both pilots, a navigator and a boom operator.

The event marked the first all-female crew to fly an air refueling mission into Afghanistan from Ganci.

“We’ve been really lucky,” said 1st Lt. Alison, the navigator on board. Last names are being withheld for operational security. “You don’t always deploy with a lot of women. The fact that we have four women on this deployment, and the fact that we make up a crew is amazing.”

After living with each other in the same tent for almost two months, the women were eager to fly on the same mission.

“We’ve gotten along really well living together, so we were very excited to finally be able to fly together,” said Capt. Waynetta, one of the two pilots on the mission.

The women, including the other pilot, Capt. Heather, and the boom operator, Senior Airman Lyndi, are all assigned to the 99th Air Refueling Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. They have been deployed here since Dec. 9.

Once inside the tanker, the women began their pre-flight and take-off duties with an ease borne of plenty of experience and skill. Most of them have deployed before, to places like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iceland and Thailand.

Between the four of them, they total almost 4,000 flying hours in the KC-135.

The flight path to Afghanistan traversed three of the “Stans.” The country itself remains a dangerous place. Just a few days before the historic flight, coalition forces on the ground encountered the heaviest fighting since Operation Anaconda last year. Norwegian F-16s from Ganci dropped munitions in support from the air.

Once over Afghanistan, the crew got down to business, refueling F-16s from the air forces of Denmark, the Nether-



Capt. Elizabeth Ortiz

(Clockwise from lower left) 1st Lt. Alison, Capt. Heather and Waynetta and, Senior Airman Lyndi, all from the 376th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, flew an all-female KC-135 Stratotanker air refueling mission over Afghanistan on Jan. 31.

lands and Norway. Based at Ganci, the aircraft provide combat air support to coalition ground forces.

“It’s awesome knowing that I’m having a direct impact on the mission,” said Airman Lyndi on her 17th combat mission over Afghanistan.

“The fighters couldn’t put bombs on target without gas, and I’m the one who gets it to them,” she said.

In all, Airman Lyndi refueled 10 European F-16s during the flight, off-loading 63,000 pounds of fuel.

“I’m accomplishing something with my Air Force career,” said Lieutenant Alison.

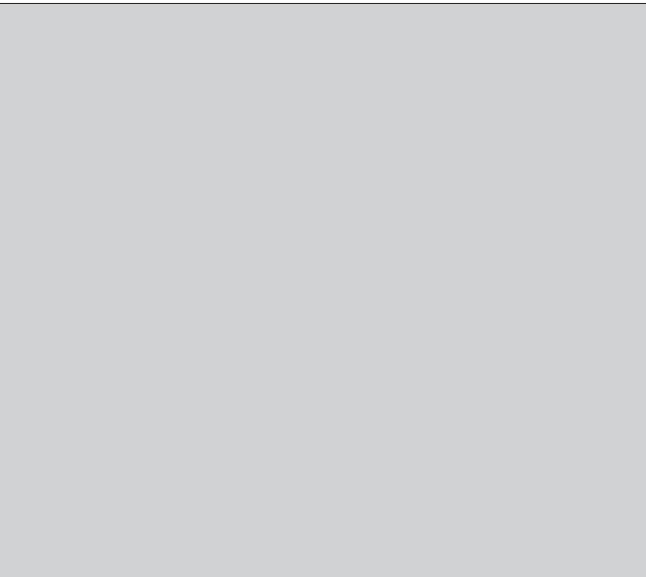
This is especially true in the case of OEF, an operation that more than 1,800 women support.

“I’ve always thought the greatest thing I could do with my life was to serve my country and be willing to die for it — for my family, my neighbors, people I don’t even know,” Captain Waynetta said. “Now, we’re here supporting troops in Afghanistan who are defending our freedom and way of life.”

Basking in the early morning sunlight, the tanker headed back to Ganci.

“All we wanted was to fly together,” Airman Lyndi said. “I’m so excited we got to do it.”

“We believe in equality,” Captain Waynetta said. “But, the fact of the matter is, we’re still girls, and we’re doing something our grandmothers couldn’t do.”



Your link to what's going on

Gulf Guide

in the Tyndall community

FEBRUARY

FRI
14

Change of command

The 325th Air Control Squadron's change of command ceremony is 12:55 p.m. today in Hangar 4. Lt. Col. Charles B.

Still will relinquish command to Lt. Col. John A. Cote'. All base personnel are invited.

SAT
15

Awards banquet

The Tyndall Annual Awards Banquet will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday with a social, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and will be

held in the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club.

SUN
16

Chapel religious education

The Tyndall Chapel offers religious education 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays for Protestants and 11 a.m.-noon Sundays for

Catholics. Both sessions will be held at the spiritual fitness building. For more information, call 283-2925.

MON
17

Commissary holiday hours

The commissary will be closed Monday, Presidents Day, but will be open on Tuesday.

AAFES holiday hours

The following Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities will be open at the following times on Monday, Presidents Day: Main exchange, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Class Six, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Felix Lake Shoppette, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; barbershop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The service station and Burger King will be closed.

'Hands On' boating safety course

A "Hands On - Boating Safety and Seamanship" course will begin Monday. The classes are offered by the St. Andrews Bay Power Squadron at Gulf Coast Community College and Treasure Island Marina as a community service. There is no cost except for books. For more information, call Mr. Lonnie Roper, 235-2891.

Lifeguard training

The Central Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross will offer a lifeguard training course Monday - Feb. 22. For more information, call the Red Cross, 763-6587.

Focus 56 meeting

A Focus 56 meeting for all staff sergeant selects through technical sergeants will be 3 p.m. Tuesday in the NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Charles Hargett, 283-8617, or visit the Web site, www.tyndall.af.mil/FOCUS56/default.htm

WED
19

AFSA meeting

A meeting of the Air Force Sergeants Association will be 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. Newly elected officers will be inducted at this month's meeting. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Charles Hargett, 283-8617.

Parenting workshop

An effective parenting workshop will continue 1-3 p.m. Wednesday and Feb. 26 in Room 127 in Building 1305. For more information, call family advocacy, 283-7511.

Protestant youth group

The Tyndall Chapel's Protestant Youth Group meets 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays in the spiritual fitness center. For more information, call the Chapel 2 office, 283-2925.

'Moms, Pops and Tots'

The "Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots," group will meet from 9-10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the community activities center, Building 1027. Parents are asked to bring a toy that the child can share with others. For more information and cost, call Ms. Bonnie Fuller, 283-5812, or Ms. Karen Blood, 874-0292.

THU
20

National prayer luncheon

A national prayer luncheon will be 11 a.m. Thursday in the Pelican Reef Enlisted Club. The guest chaplain will be Col. John Blair, Command Chaplain, AETC. Tickets are available for purchase through all first sergeants and Tyndall Chapel staff. For more information, call Tyndall Chaplain, Capt. Andrew Suh or Airman 1st Class Tamika Ledbetter, 283-2925.

NOTES

New York Air Guard positions

Traditional Air Guard positions and full-time active-duty openings exist with the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York, home of the C-130 ski-birds. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson, DSN 344-2456 or (800) 524-5070, or e-mail: Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

Religious education

The word pagan often calls to mind Satanism, hexes, ritualistic slaying, voodoo and demons.

Unfortunately, that is how pagans are usually portrayed. In reality, most pagans are peaceful, nature loving, outdoor enthusiasts who do not even believe in Satan. As the oldest practiced religions in the world, paganism and wicca have a wide spectrum of beliefs and practices.

If you happen to be a practitioner and do not know where to go, or perhaps you are just interested in learning more, a group is being formed to celebrate, learn, discuss and just have fun.

You can find out more by calling the chapel office at 283-2925.

RETIREE NEWS

Space-available travel

The Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense has approved a one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges for dependents traveling within the continental United States. The test is scheduled to begin April 1 and will end April 1, 2004. It will allow dependents of active-duty and retired uniformed services members to travel within the CONUS when accompanied by their sponsors. Dependents will assume the same category of travel as their sponsor.

Space-available sign up for this program will be effective April 1. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but no earlier than April 1. Active-duty members must be in a leave or pass status to register for space-available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of travel. Information concerning space-available policy may be obtained by sending an e-mail message to amc-igtp@scott.af.mil. Do not send e-mail requesting flight information. You must contact a terminal directly for this. For more information concerning space-available travel and sign-up procedures, review the Air Mobility Command public Web site at: <http://amcpublish.scott.af.mil/Spacea/spacea.htm> or contact the servicing Department of Defense air terminal of interest.

YARD SALES

There are no yard sales scheduled for Saturday.

Movies

BASE THEATER

The base theater is closed for repairs until further notice.

CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS

1997 Dodge Grand Caravan, good condition, well maintained, AC, V-6, automatic, 94,000 miles, \$6,200: Call 286-1884.

Bicycle safety serious business as springtime nears

2ND LT. RYAN FITZGERALD
325th Fighter Wing public affairs

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, the air is flowing through the contoured vents of your molded headgear. You are biking.

The weather is warming up and it's important

now more than ever, to learn and follow the rules of the road on Tyndall for bicyclists.

The rules on Tyndall include common-sense items like wearing a helmet. Helmet wear is required for every servicemember, dependent and guest who rides a bicycle on Tyndall real estate. Bike riders are also

required to obey all traffic laws, said Master Sgt. Troy Gilliard, 325th Security Forces Squadron. But, he said, punishing riders is not



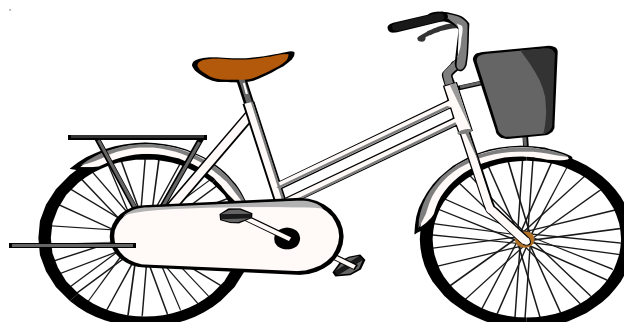
the objective for the security forces team.

"We are mainly concerned for people's safety," he said, "and we just want to make sure folks don't get hurt."

Tyndall's traffic code is available online at Tyndall's Web site, www.tyndall.af.mil. More information is available at the 325th Fighter Wing safety office, located in Building 662.

Rules of the Road for Bicyclists

1. Wear a helmet that is Snell or ANSI certified
2. Follow all traffic laws; failure to do so is actionable by security forces or your commander.
3. Obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits (15 mph in housing areas) and lane markings.
4. Ride single file on the right side of the road (with traffic).
5. Use hand signals to alert other vehicles of your intentions.
6. Yield to pedestrians and other vehicles as appropriate.
7. Make sure your bike is the proper size and is well maintained.
8. Don't wear headphones; they hinder your ability to hear traffic.
9. Wear bright-colored clothing, reflective at night.
10. Make sure your bike has all the appropriate reflectors it needs and ensure it has a working headlight and taillight.



The Five Rules to Avoid Fatal Crashes

1. Never ride out into a street without stopping first.
2. Obey stop signs.
3. Check behind before swerving, turning or changing lanes.
4. Always follow the rules, even when following another bicycle.
5. Before you get on your bike, put on a helmet.



Teaching your child to ride a bike:

- **Right start:** Your child will need a helmet, gloves, shoes (no sandals or flip-flops) and perhaps knee and shin pads before he or she gets on the bike. Adjust the bicycle for your child and be sure they can reach pedals, bars and brakes comfortably.
- **Brakes:** Demonstrate to your child how to use the bike's brakes. Push your child along until he or she uses the brakes correctly.
- **Teaching Balance:** Run alongside the bike, holding it up by the seat with one hand on the handlebars to show how you turn them to keep the bike upright.
- **Riding:** Nobody learns without practice. Riding with your child is probably the best way to practice.



KeJuan Bostick skies for a three-pointer while Ronald Butler posts-up during a recent game versus Eglin.

Courtesy photo

Tigers split season ender with Eglin

The Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity basketball team closed out their 2002/03 conference schedule splitting with the visiting Eglin Eagles this past weekend in Southeastern Military Athletic Conference action.

Tyndall-101, Eglin-63

In Saturday's contest, Tarrance Garner led six Tigers in double figures with a game-high 24 points as Tyndall jumped on the Eagles from the opening tip as the Tigers were roaring on all cylinders. Tyndall led 59-25 at the intermission and continued the onslaught in the second half to race to the victory.

Israel Figueroa and Marvin Gamble each scored 14 points, Marcus Baucom and Omar Johnson each had 11 and Chris Jackson tallied 10 points. Baucom led in assists with seven and Gamble led the Tigers in rebounding with 10. Derek Luke led the Eagles in scoring with 17 points.

Eglin-83, Tyndall-75

Sunday's contest started out as a repeat of the first game as Tyndall jumped out to an early 12-point lead of 19-7 only to see Eglin battle back to trim the Tigers' lead to six points at the half, 41-35. In the second half, the Tigers were on cruise control until Eglin mounted a furious comeback that saw the Eagles fight their way back to take a 76-75 lead with 43 seconds remaining in the contest. An errant Tigers shot attempt coupled with two steals and

subsequent Eglin baskets sealed the victory for the Eagles.

Marvin Gamble posted a double-double, scoring 20 points and adding 12 rebounds to lead the Tigers in both categories. Tarrance Garner scored 16 points, Scott Moore added 11 points and Tommy Nixon and Lance Clark contributed 10 points each. Moore also pulled down 10 rebounds, Baucom led in assists with six and Scott Moore had three blocked shots.

The Tigers, who finished the regular season in second place, 18-6 conference, 25-7 overall may have been caught looking ahead to this weekend as they will host the 2003 SEMAC Men's Post Season Basketball Tournament. The Tigers will be attempting to add the post-season crown to their Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Jr. tournament titles.

The tournament kicks off Saturday at 11 a.m. as Keesler will face the regular season champs Hurlburt Field Commandos, followed by Eglin versus Tyndall at 1 p.m. The winners of the first two games will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday's action resumes at 11 a.m. and the championship game is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact the sports and fitness center at 283-2631.

(COURTESY TYNDALL TIGERS)

Funshine NEWS

February 14, 2003

325th Services Website: www.325thservices.com


325th Service Squadron
Let Us Know How
We Are Doing
283-4506

Air Force Club Scholarship Program

Six scholarships will be awarded to AF Club members or their eligible family members.

First place is \$6,000

Applicants must be accepted by, or enrolled in, an accredited college or university graduate or undergraduate program by fall of 2003. Information packages with complete instructions and requirements are available from the Tyndall Officers' Club business office beginning February 21.

Entry deadline is July 15.

283-4357

for more information.

Sponsored in part by:

First USA Bank, Coca Cola and Master Card.
No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Teen Center

☎ 283-0295

College Scholarships

■ **General Henry Arnold Grant: \$1,500**

Open to: High School Seniors
www.nces.ed.gov, www.afas.org
Deadline: March 14, 2003

■ **The Military Officers Association of America: \$1,000**

Open to: Military Dependents (under age of 24). Deadline: March 1, 2003

■ **Scholarships for Military Children: \$1,500**

www.commissaries.com

Applications also available at Base Commissary. Must write essay: "How has being a military member influenced your educational goals?" Deadline: Feb. 21, 2003

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Operation Nite Hoops

Teens only! Nite Hoops basketball league forming. Game days and times will be determined as soon as teams are chosen.

Start Smart Golf for 5-7 Yr. Olds

Teaches children and parents the basics of golf in a one-on-one environment. Runs Mar. 1, 8, 29 & Apr 5 & 12 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$35.

Target Archery

Mar. 25-28. 10 a.m. Open to youth 9-16 yrs. Learn basic archery techniques. Cost is \$30.

On Base Food Delivery

■ **Lunch Menu:** Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Limited to office deliveries (i.e. squadron addresses)
■ **Evening Menu:** Fri. & Sat. 5:30-9 p.m.

Subs & Pizzas

286-2900

Vet Clinic

☎ 283-2434

Holiday Hours

The vet clinic will be closed Friday, Feb. 14 & Monday, Feb. 17.

Marina Club

☎ 283-3059

All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast every Sunday 7:30-10 a.m.
Members: \$2.50, Nonmembers: \$3.50

12" Bar Pizzas

After 2 p.m. Starting at \$5!

Information, Tickets & Travel

☎ 283-2499

Passport to Adventure

Validate Your Passport NOW for a Chance to Win These Great Prizes:
A Cruise for 2 on the Riviera
A Cruise for 2 on the New England Coast
To get your passport and information on how to play call or stop by ITT.

Community Activity Center Gourmet Coffee Cart

Grand Opening

February 19, 2003 at 9 a.m.

Free samples of Coffee • Free Cake
Ribbon Cutting at 9 a.m.

283-2495

Bonita Bay

Paintball Field Grand Opening

**February 27, 2003
at 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Ribbon Cutting, Refreshments & a 15 minute demonstration

Sponsored in part by:

WMW Paintball Supply • RKS Paintball
No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

283-3199

WIN!

AF Club Members

who eat at the Club or the Sports Page Pizza Pub & Grill during February and March could win a **Premier Vacation Package.** Come by for details.

All Ranks Lunch at the O' Club

Mon.-Thurs.: \$6.95 ■ Friday: \$7.95
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Unlimited access to the daily buffet, salad bar, fountain soda, tea & coffee!

Includes: *Fresh Hot*
Carved Meat Sandwiches
on Kaiser Roll

Mondays	Chef's Choice
Tuesdays	Italian
Wednesdays	Oriental
Thursdays	All American
Fridays	Seafood

*Members, show your club card to receive a \$1 discount!

283-4357

Base Honor Guard

☎ 283-4405

NCOIC Needed

NCOIC needed for highly visible Base Honor Guard program. Call SSgt Sparks for details.

Fitness Center

☎ 283-2631

2003 SEMAC Men's Post Season Basketball

Tournament, Feb. 15-16

Tyndall Air Force Base will host the 2003 Southeastern Military Athletic Conference (SEMAC) Men's Post Season Basketball Tournament. Call for more details.

Sponsored in part by King Aerospace.

No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Gulf Coast Salute

Concessionaire booth applications are available at the CAC - Bldg. 1027. **Don't miss out! Apply today!** Call Rudy: 283-2495

Here is a chance for your squadron, booster club or private organization to earn extra income. Official military units assigned to Tyndall AFB will have priority. All applications must be received by close of business on Feb. 21, 2003.

tops in blue

**February 23, 7:30 p.m.
At the Marina Civic Center**

Tickets will be available Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. at the CAC and Marina Civic Center. Due to limited seating, a maximum of 4 tickets per person. I.D. card is required.

Sponsored in part by: **AT&T, First Command Financial Planning, Tyndall Federal Credit Union.**

No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Something fine for your

Valentine

Tyndall Clubs

283-4357

Marina Club

283-3059

Community Activity Center

283-2495

Golf Course

286-2565

Bowling Center

283-2380

Teen Center

283-0295

Youth Center

283-4366

All Ranks • Members only
Valentine's Dinner Special
Feb. 14, \$34.95 per couple
At the O' Club Dining Room
Reservations recommended

2 for 1 Lunch Special
Every Tuesday in Feb. & Feb. 14
Members only

Valentine Balloons Available

Valentine Couples Tournament
Feb. 16, Sign-up by Feb 14
Best ball, full handicap
Noon Shotgun

Couples Month Bowling
For the month of February
Two play for the price of one
Daytime only, Mon.-Fri.

Valentine's Day Party
Feb. 14
Especially for our Sweethearts!
Make a special valentine at the Teen Center and join us for Valentine treats.

Valentine's Day Party
Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m.
Get dressed up and bring your special friend to the party. There will be snacks, door prizes, games, music and lots of fun in store for everyone.
Members \$1, Non-members \$3
Couples \$2

**Happy Valentines from the
325th Services Squadron**

Services course geared toward fitness needs

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron marketing

Beginning today, the information you need to build the body you’ve always wanted is available, thanks to a fitness course geared toward people of various fitness levels developed at the 344th Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Miranda McKenzie, a Services Academy instructor from the 344th TS, will finish teaching a course today to the Tyndall Fitness Center enlisted staff, as well as other services squadron members. According to Sergeant McKenzie, the two-week course covers a wide variety of physical fitness elements.

“We teach (people) about different sports programs, cycle ergometry, basic anatomy, customer service, different fitness techniques – the basic components of fitness,” Sergeant McKenzie said. The course also teaches about the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, weight management and nutrition.

“It’s a lot of stuff to cover in two weeks,” she said.

And it’s not all covered in the classroom.

Students find themselves lifting weights, doing sit-ups and pushups, running and generally sweating more than they normally would during a typical two-week school course.

But it’s a course with many benefits for the students. Besides being worth four college credits toward a degree, they now can put individuals on personal workout programs, instruct on proper use of gym equipment, and advise on diet and nutrition.

“After they complete this course, they’ll all be certified trainers through the military,” Sergeant McKenzie explained. “As far as what you see personal trainers doing in the outside world, (these students) should be able to do.”

One of the jobs a personal fitness trainer has to do correctly is evaluate a person’s physical capacities to help them start the right training program. To learn these techniques, students turned to their fellow classmates.

“They had to perform fitness assessments on each other,” Sergeant McKenzie said. Part of these evaluations included tests of cardiovascular capacity, flexibility and overall strength.

Several students said the course benefited

them personally by getting them in better shape and teaching them the correct way to get there, but they aren’t the only ones who will feel the positive impact of Sergeant McKenzie’s instruction.

“It’s been really great to finally take this course so I can contribute more to the fitness center,” said Senior Airman Amanda Grissom, fitness specialist. Airman Grissom feels the course will aid her ability to provide better customer service to those who train there.

One way she and her fellow classmates assist people at the gym is by providing instruction on the proper use of the different weight-lifting machines there. Although some are fairly easy to understand, others look like they require an engineering degree to figure out, and they all have the potential to cause injury if used improperly.

“Now if we see someone using the machines wrong, we can stop them from maybe hurting themselves,” she said. “Before (this course), we could have just walked by them.”

Now she and her colleagues have the knowledge to assist and correct, she added.

Another fitness specialist from Tyndall Fit-



Steve Riddle

Staff Sgt. Miranda McKenzie shows the proper lift technique as Senior Airman Amanda Grissom spots her and Senior Airman Laura Breeden looks on.

ness Center who attended the course, Senior Airman Laura Breeden, said she also gained the knowledge and confidence to give quality instruction and advice on the use of machines.

“My biggest benefit from this class was on using the machines,” Airman Breeden said. “Now I can show somebody how to breathe and lift properly.”

● **FROM AFRL PAGE 6**

logistics costs,” said Captain Schulteis.

This is the first time in history the Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, a DOD agency and a major university, in addition to numerous supporting local agencies, have collaborated on a major, water-based training exercise.

This exercise addressed the response capabilities of emergency responders during a potential criminal or accidental water-based incident. The integrated technologies brought into play by the DTRA team during this exercise could potentially aid in both homeland defense and military operations abroad.

Some of the AFRL robotics technology applied in the DTRA ITD is currently being applied in its stand-alone form in military operations around the world. More than 40 All-purpose Remote Transport Systems are being used by explosive ordnance disposal troops to remotely detect, analyze and render safe unexploded ordnance.

“It’s been a very positive experience. We have been meeting several times a week over the past few months to bring these technologies together,” Captain Schulteis said. “This exercise will most likely serve to be a springboard for future work together.”

